

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve

1.90
4.2521 U. S. Department of Agriculture
April 19, 1946 - Volume No. 5

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

AUG 2 1946

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

: F A M I N E C A M P A I G N R O U N D U P :

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

Picture yourself in a home, well fed and well clothed, healthy and happy.

On your table are appetizing and ample meals. Practically any food you fancy is found in your corner grocery. And there's more growing on the farmlands of the country. You are rich.

Down the street lives a poor family in a shack. They are shabbily clothed, their cupboard is bare, and their faces are haunted by misery and hunger. They are destitute and desperate.

As a good neighbor, what would you do?

The American nation is Europe's happy, well-fed neighbor. Shall we grow more plump while they become more gaunt?

Lend a helping hand. Let charity begin in your home. Conserve food --- eat less --- sell any wheat you may have.

Be a good neighbor.

* * * *

THE SITUATION: "BLACK"

Is the food situation as black as it has been painted?

President Truman gave a direct answer to this question when it was posed to him by a group of U. S. newspaper editors. He replied:

"It is worse than has been painted. I wish I could send all of you gentlemen to the starvation areas of Europe and Asia so you could see for yourselves just how bad conditions are."

To bring this story home to Americans through the eyes of a recognized authority, Mr. Truman has asked ex-President Herbert Hoover to return to this country immediately from his month-long tour of hunger-ridden Europe.

Mr. Truman's telegram to Mr. Hoover said that "with only 75 days left in the current phase of the famine relief program nothing should be left undone that can increase public response to draw more wheat from the farms and to save more food in homes and eating places.

"Arrangements would be made for a large meeting in New York City and others elsewhere."

At the same time, Mr. Truman sent a telegram to M. W. Thatcher, St. Paul, president of the National Association of Grain Cooperatives, urging farmers to take advantage of the wheat certificate plan and deliver their wheat to the Government now.

"I am strongly for this plan," the President telegraphed Thatcher. "It is carefully drawn to safeguard the interests of the wheat growers. Now that it has been adopted I ask all farmers who hold wheat and all grain cooperatives and other handlers to give their individual and collective help in making it work out in practice to produce the actual wheat that is so deeply needed."

"All those who give that help will earn the gratitude of hungry people in many lands."

* * * *

WE'VE HAD A FLOUR "FEAST"

Wheat flour production figures for the first three months of this year show that we can send much more abroad without damaging our diet in the least.

The figures show that we aren't exporting nearly all the wheat flour that we might, considering the great need abroad.

Estimated exports thus far this year are 18.5 percent of our total wheat flour production, only slightly more than the 17 percent which we sent abroad during the 12 months of 1945.

Flour available for consumption at home for the first quarter has been roughly 5 percent over a year ago. Exports are up about 65 percent, despite considerable shipments in 1945 to our servicemen overseas. Production for the first quarter is up some 15 percent.

Figures for March do not reflect the three-month picture in comparing this quarter and a year ago. Estimated wheat flour production for March of this year promises to be slightly less than a year ago, with the export figure also somewhat under the March 1945 figure. But the amount available for this country's consumers in March this year actually was more than March last year, according to current estimates. Here are the figures as of April 18:

WHEAT FLOUR: Total United States Production - Less Exports
(All figures in hundredweights)

Period	: Wheat flour production	: Wheat flour exports <u>1/</u>	: Flour available for domestic consumption
1945 -			
January	21,997,511	2,653,399	19,344,112
February	20,137,582	1,592,179	18,545,403
March	22,052,662	3,911,982	18,140,680
April	21,701,725	4,367,787	17,333,938
1946 -			
January	25,605,000	4,363,086	21,241,914
February	<u>2/</u> 25,600,000	5,751,418	19,848,582
March	<u>2/</u> 21,600,000	<u>2/</u> 3,404,716	18,195,284
April	<u>2/</u> 23,000,000		

1/ Includes exports by military

April 18, 1946

2/ Estimated

* * * *

FOOD OR FEED?

Statistical evidence why farmers are being asked to cut down on livestock feeding in the present famine emergency has been compiled at Iowa State College. The evidence shows:

As human food ----

One acre of wheat feeds 10 people 52 days.

One acre of corn feeds 10 people 51 days.

One acre of soybeans feeds 10 people 28 days.

As animal products ----

One acre of feed crops to milk cows feeds 10 people 15 days.

One acre of feed crops to hogs feeds 10 people 15 days.

One acre of feed crops to steers feeds 10 people 5 days.

The above figures are based on national average crop yields.

* * * *

ANDERSON'S VIEWS ON FLOUR ORDER

In recent testimony before the Senate Small Business Committee, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson explained the reasons behind the proposal to limit the domestic use of flour by means of a War Food Order. His statement in part:

"Briefly, the argument in favor of such an order was to get results more quickly than the consumers' voluntary reductions could produce them.

"The point was not to make a greater reduction; the proposal under discussion provided for a reduction in domestic consumption of flour by only 25%, whereas all consumers have been asked to reduce their consumption voluntarily by 40%. The question was not quantity of wheat but the time required to make it available.

"We all like voluntary effort better than regulation as a matter of principle, but voluntary effort is slower. It takes some time for reduced demand at the retail level to reflect itself in wheat and flour available for export. Incidentally, the order would undoubtedly help some of the small millers who are having trouble getting a fair share of the available wheat because it would equalize the reduction in consumption among all areas. More equitable distribution of both wheat and flour would result.....

"I sum up the wheat situation about like this: To meet our export commitments between now and the end of June, we've got to squeeze around 49 million bushels out of our own consumption and our stocks."

* * * * *

BREAD -- THE STAFF OF LIFE

Here are some sample diets in Italy, Greece, Czechoslovakia, and Poland as listed by UNRRA headquarters:

Italy: Breakfast -- bread, tea or coffee, probably ersatz. Lunch -- thin vegetable soup and bread. Dinner -- small quantity of spaghetti, bread, nuts and ripe fruit.

Greece: Breakfast -- bread, tea or coffee, probably ersatz. Lunch -- macaroni with sauce or oil, garlic and a little meat, bread, raisins or figs. Dinner -- dry beans or peas in soup, bread, cheese and wine if available.

Czechoslovakia: Breakfast -- bread, ersatz coffee or tea with sugar. Lunch -- potato soup, cabbage cooked with potatoes and cheese. Dinner -- thin cabbage soup with small bit of meat or fish, bread, ersatz coffee and some kind of sweet.

Poland: Breakfast -- bread, tea or coffee, probably ersatz. Lunch -- small piece of meat or fish with potatoes, bread, ersatz tea or coffee without sugar. Dinner -- cabbage, borscht or barley soup, bread and perhaps a small piece of cheese.

UNRRA officials noted that bread was the foundation of every meal. U. S. wheat and flour are needed to keep that foundation from crumbling.

* * * * *

FOOD SAVING AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Food conservation is the order of the day in the Nation's No. 1 residence.

On instructions from Mrs. Truman, the following conservation steps have been put into effect at the White House:

• Wheatless day every Monday.

Use of wheat food restricted to the morning meal on other days.

No bread served at dinner.

The bread served in the morning is usually dark bread. Corn bread and bran muffins are usually served at lunch.

* * * * *

ANCHORS AWEIGH --- FULL SPEED AHEAD!

To a man, the Navy has hitched up its "bell-bottoms", and taken action to save food in the Famine Emergency. Result: A saving of over 1,100 tons of wheat flour per month.

Secretary of the Navy Forrestal has directed all ships and stations to continue their war-time food-conservation program. He places emphasis on conserving flour.

Navy use of the 80% extraction flour will save an estimated 1,100 tons of wheat in April. Navy galleys are reducing the thickness of slices of bread and the size of rolls and sweet doughs. Half portions of wheat bread are now served, and corn bread is substituted for white bread 2 days each week.

Corn and buckwheat griddle cakes have replaced wheat griddle cakes. Rolled oats, cornmeal and hominy grits are used in place of wheat cereals. Potatoes are substituted for wheat or rice.

Posters are tacked in the mess halls -- taking every approach from pin-up girls to hogs in sailor uniforms -- to press home one point "take what you want, but eat what you take." Every sailor who passes through the mess line knows he must conserve food.

Nutrition hasn't suffered. Food served in Navy messes is 30 percent above the recommended dietary standards set by the National Research Council.

There's no anchor dragging in the Navy's effort to save food. It's full speed ahead.

* * * * *

ONLY 8 NATIONS GET FOOD VIA UNRRA; OTHERS PAY CASH

Except for eight of the hardest-hit nations, foreign countries receiving food from the United States are buying and paying for it according to the usual business-like rules of peacetime abundance.

Those receiving goods through relief methods are Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, China, Austria and little Albania.

They get their food through UNRRA -- United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, headed by ex-mayor LaGuardia of New York City. Funds for UNRRA are contributed by members of the United Nations. UNRRA representatives in starving countries are charged with the job of getting the food to the people who need it most.

Of course, none of the countries suffering want are getting all of the food they need -- whether they buy it or are provided with it through relief channels. The disruption of war and shortages only make it possible to minimize famine, not to eliminate it.

* * * * *

MINNEAPOLIS SCORES FIRST WHEAT SALE

The drive to "sweep the bins clean" is under way.

First sale reported under the new certificate purchase plan to move wheat off the farm came from Minneapolis where the regional CCC office had bought two carloads (about 3,500 bushels) April 17 and 18.

Much more is reported on the way. Contracts of sale (or wheat certificates) didn't start reaching country elevators until April 6.

Under the contract plan, a farmer delivers his wheat to the elevator and receives a Government certificate which he can cash later at the prevailing price on any date before next April 1. Thus, he can collect on any rise in price between now and then.

Reports of quantity sales under the emergency wheat program are expected soon.

* * * * *

NO EXPORT GRAINS USED IN SPIRITS
BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
IN FAMINE-STRICKEN COUNTRIES.

Not one kernel of the grains shipped from this country and intended for hungry peoples of other nations is marked for use by foreign manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, according to Department of Agriculture officials.

All grain going abroad must be used for direct human consumption or for seed by the terms of export licenses authorizing shipment. A follow-up check on the uses to which such grains are put is made by representatives of UNRRA, operating in famine-stricken areas.

Not only is this limitation a policy of the American Government, but it is a declared international policy. Members of the Combined Food Board — made up of representatives from Canada, Britain and the U. S. — have passed a resolution to that effect.

* * * *

TRUMAN FAVORS 2 "EUROPEAN DIET" DAYS A WEEK FOR U. S.

President Truman told a press conference it would be an excellent idea for Americans to go on a diet two days a week similar to the diet of people in the famine-ridden countries of Europe. Most of us are eating too much, he said, and there is enough wasted every day to meet the daily food needs of the starving people.

* * * *

AN EX-SERVICE MAN TALKS ABOUT FAMINE

Writing for the New York Times, ex-Service man Albert Mayer says:

"Wherever we have served in the world, we have found one common denominator, one common need — FOOD. We have seen food riots and dying men too weak to riot. We have seen docile men and women who could think of nothing with greater anticipation than going through the American Army's garbage. . . .

"The American at home simply has not seen this kind of hunger, this kind of emaciation, this quiet resignation or desperation. ONCE YOU HAVE SEEN IT, YOU NEVER STOP SEEING IT. . . .

"They say 'food is a vital factor in politics of the world.' You bet your life it is. Lectures and leaflets on democracy and world fellowship is hollow comfort to the starving man who sees, as he has seen in every country in the world how prodigally we feed ourselves and how prodigally we waste and how tragically little he has."

* * * *

: S P E C I A L ;
:
:
:
:
Your attention is called to the letter sent to President :
Truman April 9 by the Famine Emergency Committee discuss- :
sing the results of the famine campaign to that date and :
making certain recommendations. Copies of this release :
already have been sent to State PMA offices and to mem- :
bers of the Famine emergency council.
:

* * * *

: NEWS DEVELOPMENTS :
:
:
:

Food within the AMERICAN OCCUPATION ZONE IN GERMANY is not sufficient to sustain life — even at starvation levels — Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, Chief of the American Occupation Forces, told Herbert Hoover in Berlin. Supplies now on hand, plus imports on the way, will only allow a daily calory ration of 915 for each German until the next harvest, General McNarney said.

Meanwhile, Gen. Lucius D. Clay issued a statement which said that prolonged continuation of the meager food rations, together with the present economic doldrums, "might lead to unrest which will necessitate a larger army of occupation than is now contemplated and for a longer period of time."

* * * *

Gen. Lucius D. Clay emphasized the direct relationship of FOOD TO PRODUCTION IN GERMANY. He said that the coal output in the Ruhr had "decreased substantially" since reduced rations began.

"The pump can be primed only with food," he said. "Without food Germany cannot support the minimum transportation and industry. Without coal Germany cannot produce fertilizer, and unless it produces fertilizer, it is unable to improve its own food supply."

* * * *

TODAY IS THE MOST CRITICAL day in history so far as feeding the people of the world is concerned -- tomorrow will be even more critical, and the next day still more so -- Chester Davis said in a radio talk on April 12.

The food crisis increases in gravity with every day until summer, when the first crops can be harvested, he stated. "And the first harvesting of crops will begin only the gradual easing of the tense and painful hunger to which the people have been subjected," he continued.

Although crop prospects look good in this country, Mr. Davis said, "the hungry people of the famine countries cannot eat prospects. . . the real pinch is coming in the next 90 days. . . bumper crops that come later will do them no good."

He outlined three ways to meet "our own shortcomings in wheat":

1. Use less wheat for livestock feed,
2. Use less wheat for our own food,
3. Lower our estimates of the amount we shall need to carry over into the next crop year.

* * * *

THE DANISH GOVERNMENT said April 15 that some of the meat held in storage for summer consumption would be offered for export to France, Holland, and Belgium.

* * * *

THREE AMERICAN LIBERTY SHIPS, loaded with Russian wheat, began a trip from Odessa to Marseille, France, this week. The U. S. has assigned 43 more vessels to transport Russian wheat to France as relief for the French food situation.

The 46 ships can haul a total of 375,000 tons, and more ships will be made available if more grain is available.

The U. S. itself has agreed to ship France 1,800,000 tons of wheat in the first half of 1946. In 1945, the U. S. and Canada shipped more than 1,700,000 tons to France and French North Africa.

* * * *

UNLESS GRAIN IS SHIPPED INTO INDIA before the end of June, there will be disaster far worse than the Bengal famine of 1943, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, agent-general for India in the U. S. declared in New York April 18.

The Bengal famine toll was between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 million lives. This year there may be from 5 to 10 million deaths, he predicted.

Because of a crop failure last December and a recent drought, India has asked the Combined Food Board for 2,200,000 tons of grain to be delivered before the end of June. It is estimated this amount is needed to maintain an average diet of 960 calories a day.

* * * *